

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 1, 1998

Present: Bendall, Dumond, Greiger, Reid, Williams.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Judy Horton; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Elwin Fowler; Larry Runyan; Larry Friess; Bill Otto; Dick Sanderson; Denise Bannan, Team 21; George Hoddy, Team 21; Jack Harrison, Team 21; Dick Batchelor, Team 21; Doug Albrant; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Weaver at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Bendall moved, Williams seconded to approve the May 18, 1998 Regular Council Minutes as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Greiger, Reid, Bendall, Dumond, Williams.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Bendall moved, Greiger seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Williams, Bendall, Dumond, Greiger, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Williams, Reid, Greiger, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Elwin Fowler, 706 N. Shiawassee Street, stated he questioned the water rates two weeks ago and did not see anything on the agenda regarding the rates. Ms. Hitchcock advised she had prepared a packet of information for him and pointed out it was on the table at the council room entrance. Mr. Fowler asked what he would be charged for water if his usage was between 1,000 and 2,000 gallons. Ms. Hitchcock advised he would be charged for 1,000 gallons. She asked Mr. Fowler to come in to city hall so she could explain the rates. Mr. Fowler agreed to meet with Ms. Hitchcock.

Doug Albrant, 418 S. Woodworth Street, stated he had three trees located in the city's right-of-way that were supposed to be cut down last fall but nothing has been done yet. He further stated one of those trees split in half during Sunday's storm and the part of the tree that remains would tear out his electrical service during the next storm. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city has been unable to reach the company that was hired to do the tree trimming. The company came in, did part of the job and they never came back. She further advised the company would be sent a certified letter. Mr. Albrant stated he was concerned that something would happen in the future.

Larry Runyan, 409 Cherry Street, stated he understood the city's right-of-way was 33 feet from the center of the road. Ms. Hitchcock advised the right-of-way was different on each road. Some are 60 feet and some are 66 feet. Mr. Runyan asked if the city was responsible for removing a tree in the right-of-way. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes.

Judy Horton, 315 N. Dutcher Street, advised there was a tree located on the corner of Ferry and Cary Street that has a mass of electrical wires running through it. She further advised she has contacted Consumers Energy for five years and they told her the tree was not bad enough to remove. Ms. Hitchcock asked if the tree was in the right-of-way. Ms. Horton advised yes.

Dick Sanderson, 224 W. McNeil Street, stated he was told the city has hired a lawn service company to mow property and asked if that was correct. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Mr. Sanderson advised the property on W. McNeil Street, that he discussed previously with Ms. Hitchcock, was mowed today.

Elwin Fowler stated he had a document that was used to remove the ambulance building from the tax roll. He further stated the document states the property had to be purchased before 1967 in order to remove it from the tax roll, but the property was not purchased until 1989. He also stated the property should be put back on the tax roll. Councilperson Williams encouraged Mr. Fowler to attend the next Ambulance Board meeting and asked him to bring his information to the board. Mr. Fowler stated he has been to council three times with this information, and he has not gotten any satisfaction yet.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF WARD ONE COUNCILPERSON: Mayor Weaver advised the city received a letter of interest from Robert Ockerman. Greiger moved, Reid seconded to appoint Robert Ockerman as Ward One Councilperson. Councilperson Reid asked if any other letters of interest were received. Mayor Weaver advised no.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Williams, Bendall, Reid, Greiger.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Weaver welcomed Robert Ockerman and the Deputy Clerk, Linda LeCureux, swore him in.

TEAM 21 PRESENTATION: Denise Bannan thanked council for allowing Team 21 to give their presentation. She briefly explained the Team 21 initiatives. George Hoddy explained each governmental unit has been managed well throughout the years but sometimes help is needed from the other units. He further explained a healthy community should see a population increase not a decrease. Jack Harrison stated there are political boundaries running through the communities that get in the way when the communities try to work together. He explained the Team 21 vision statement. He further explained Team 21 was a non-political and non-profit organization and the Team 21 goal was to enhance the community and make it a better place to live. Dick Batchelor summarized the presentation and stated the community has a lot to offer. Mayor Weaver thanked the Team 21 committee for their presentation.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 15, 1998 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE

98-03 BURNING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to set a public hearing for June 15, 1998 at 7:15 p.m. to consider Ordinance No. 98-03 Burning Ordinance Amendment. Councilperson Bendall recommended changing the recreational fire diameter from two feet to three feet. Larry Runyan asked what council was voting on. Councilperson Greiger advised council was voting to set a public hearing. Mr. Runyan stated the best time to make any changes to the amendment was before it goes to the public hearing. He further stated he understood the amendment would eliminate the need for a burning permit. Councilperson Bendall advised that was correct. She further advised there were two versions of the amendment before council. One version would restrict recreational fire burning between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to midnight and the other version would not have a time limit. She also advised she was not in favor of a version that restricts the time limit. It would prevent certain members of the community from having a recreational fire. Mr. Runyan asked if he needed a separate pit for burning papers. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, just put a screen over it. Mayor Weaver asked council which version they wanted to select. Councilperson Williams stated he was in favor of the 8:00 a.m. to midnight cut off time for a recreational fire. It would not be restrictive, and it would be easier to enforce. Councilperson Bendall disagreed. She stated 8:00 a.m. to midnight was restrictive and would not allow persons who work alternate work shifts to enjoy a recreational fire. There are other ordinances in place that would control the parties and noise. She further stated it would create more of an enforcement problem because the police department would have to drive around and tell people to put out their fires. Councilperson Dumond stated he would not be in favor of any change that would be selective on who can or cannot have a recreational fire. Councilperson Greiger stated she would like to see a cut off time extended to 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Councilperson Reid stated he agreed with Councilperson Bendall. The police department would be looking for fires after the cut off time and it would create more of a problem. Mayor Weaver asked the members of the audience who would be in favor of the 8:00 a.m. to midnight time limit. One hand was raised. He then asked who would be in favor of an unlimited time limit. Four hands were raised. Larry Friess stated it was not fair for people who work days to stop burning at 8:00 p.m. when campfires are allowed to burn twenty-four hours. Judy Horton asked how many people burn brush or leaves. Councilperson Greiger advised a lot of people do. Larry Runyan stated it was not the fire that makes the noise; it was the people. Ms. Hitchcock advised the amendment would not restrict recreational fires. The change would make it easier to have a recreational fire since a permit would not be needed. Mayor Weaver asked for a consensus from council on which

version they would like to bring to the public hearing. He asked council who would be in favor of the 8:00 a.m. to midnight time limit. One hand was raised. He then asked council who would be in favor of the 24 hour a day time limit. Five hands were raised. Mayor Weaver stated council was in favor of the amendment version that allows recreational burning without a time limit. He further stated a two foot diameter pit was on the small side and encouraged council to change the diameter to three-feet. Councilperson Dumond agreed and stated three feet was big enough. Ms. Hitchcock advised a permit could be obtained for a fire larger than three feet.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reid, Ockerman, Greiger, Williams, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 15, 1998 AT 7:30 P.M. TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE

98-06 REFUSE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to set a public hearing for June 15, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. to consider Ordinance No. 98-06 Refuse Ordinance Amendment. Elwin Fowler stated the ordinance states burning had to be 25 feet from a public street and 75 feet from a dwelling and he questioned those distances. Ms. Hitchcock advised the distances were not changing. Councilperson Greiger advised there had to be some type of distance guidelines or people would burn too close to a street or dwelling. Mr. Fowler asked what would happen if someone did not have enough room to burn. Mayor Weaver advised that person would not be able to burn on their property. Councilperson Williams asked if the footage had to be decided at tonight's meeting. Ms. Hitchcock stated council had to decide on something. Councilperson Greiger advised she would like the fire chief present before anything was modified. Councilperson Williams suggested modifying the amendment at the public hearing. He recommended having the fire chief, police chief and city attorney present at the next meeting in case there were questions.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Greiger, Reid, Dumond, Williams, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF JACK BOURSMITH TO THE PINE TREE CEMETERY

BOARD, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2002: Williams moved, Greiger seconded to appoint Jack Boursmith to the Pine Tree Cemetery Board, term to expire December 31, 2002.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Greiger, Reid, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Williams.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF BETH GREIGER TO THE FOREST MANAGEMENT

COMMISSION: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to appoint Beth Greiger to the Forest Management Commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Williams, Bendall, Dumond, Greiger, Ockerman, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CRITICAL BRIDGE RESOLUTION: Ms. Hitchcock advised the purpose of the resolution was to get the city's Critical Bridge Funding Application higher on the funding list. Williams moved, Greiger seconded to adopt the following resolution:

The City of Corunna has reviewed the Critical Bridge Program Application and is actively seeking participation in the replacement or rehabilitation of the Shiawassee Street Bridge.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Williams, Bendall, Dumond, Greiger, Ockerman, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Williams left at 8:47 p.m.

ADJOURN: Bendall moved, Reid seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Greiger, Dumond, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:14 p.m.

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AVERY WEAVER, MAYOR

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LINDA M. LECUREUX, DEPUTY CLERK